

Calcoin News

Bulletin of the
California State Numismatic Association

C O N T E N T S

President's Message	Page 2
The Coins of China	3
Who's Who in California Numismatics	6
From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer	7
The CSNA and Its Auctions	8
Report of Santa Cruz Auction	9
California Club News, Views, and Whos	10
How U.S. Destroys Worn-out Currency	14
Petersen Heads PNNA	14
Santa Barbara, Convention City	15
Siamese Shenanigans	16
Did You Know That—	16

Volume 5, Number 4

JULY, 1951



President's Message

With the Santa Cruz convention, and the election of its third set of officers, our association has reached another milestone in its history.

Under the able leadership of Dr. Calvert Emmons and Ralph Mitchell during the first four years, we saw, first, the organization period with its planning; and the consolidation period when the plans, laid in the first two years, were brought to realization. It speaks well for Dr. Emmons and those who with him brought the association into being, that the original plan, with but few minor changes, is still being followed.

Under President Mitchell, we saw the formation of some four or five new clubs in the state and the development of our bulletin into the finest numismatic publication of its kind in the United States. The record of eight fine outstanding conventions during that time speaks for itself.

No organization can remain stationary. It must either progress or decline. I am not referring merely to membership, although that is an important item, but to all the other phases of our activity as well. We have a fine bulletin, but I think even Mr. Kappen will say that it can be improved. We have the beginning of a good library, but it can be made better and certainly can be better



Leonel C. Panosh

utilized. We have had eight very fine conventions, but no one will deny, I believe, that they can be improved and made more attractive. We have seen and assisted in the starting of some half dozen new coin clubs, but certainly there are collectors enough in other cities to organize more clubs in our state. The ANA has perhaps 1000 members in California, local clubs have perhaps 800 in their memberships, and there must be several hundred non-affiliated coin collectors in the state. Our membership of a little over 300, then, has certainly not reached its limit.

In the first four years of our existence we have laid a firm, strong foundation. It is my hope that we can now begin building a superstructure on that foundation which will be a credit to our state. With your help and active interest and cooperation we can do it.

Leonel C. Panosh,
President.

One of Oakland's finest coin collections is on permanent display at the Oakland Public Museum, 14th & Oak.

CALCOIN NEWS

Official Publication of the California State
Numismatic Association

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additional cost beyond their annual dues of \$2.

Vol. V

JULY, 1951

No. 4

The Coins of China

An Address Delivered at the Santa Cruz Convention

By H. F. BOWKER, *Oakland*

The coins of China, a field in which I am very much interested, is perhaps a *terra incognita* to most coin collectors. Although most of them do have a few specimens in their collections, little attention is paid to them, in this country, due perhaps to the fact that most of their inscriptions are in Chinese characters and consequently are believed to be difficult of decipherment. I make no pretense of being fully informed on all the possible ramifications of this subject, but am only a student.

It is impossible that anyone can fully understand all about Chinese numismatics, as having extended over an unbroken period of in excess of 2000 years many unrecorded things have happened to the coinage, so that in many instances the coins themselves are the only remaining records of the events. It has been estimated that there are more than 15,000 known varieties of Chinese coins, but as this estimate was made in the second decade of this century before the torrent of 10-cash coppers, it is safe to say that there are probably double that number in existence.

Thus it is seen that the field is vast, and no one can have all of the coins, not even the great numismatic museums. Every collector who interests himself in this field has an excellent opportunity to acquire even great rarities, as not a single European or American dealer of whom I have any knowledge really understands them and frequently offers the rarest of coins at nominal prices. I also will admit that in consequence of their ignorance they also offer the commonest varieties at fantastic figures. Therefore, it behooves the collector to study his coins and to read as thoroughly as possible the existing published data which has appeared in print in the past.

I do not recommend the field of Chinese numismatics to a collector if he is of the mentality which accepts only specimens in "proof" condition, as such specimens are practically unknown and unobtainable in this field, even among the machine-

minted coins issued during the last few years. However, there are other criteria of condition which are more valid in this field. The earlier coins must be considered as archaeological as well as numismatic specimens. Condition criteria are the legibility of the inscriptions, the completeness of the specimen in its original form, and the color and condition of the surface patination.

It is recommended that it is particularly desirable for one to accept into his collection the first specimen obtainable of each variety, regardless of its imperfections, for who knows if he ever will see another. I say this without discouraging one from trying to improve the quality of the specimens in his collection if and when the opportunity presents itself.

The Chinese have been coin collectors for hundreds of years and in that time have pretty well determined the sequence of the various series of coins, even those which antedate the time when they began to place the name of the reign period on the face of the coins as a part of their principal inscriptions. They also have established which coins are common and which are the rarities, and have not been above trying to make some of the rarities available to collectors by forgery. However, the greater part of their forgeries are not really deceptive as they generally are found to lack, in some respect, some of the characteristics of the genuine coins. After a little experience it usually is easy to separate the sheep from the goats.

In this connection I am reminded of a story told to me by a professor of one of the largest American universities. In his youth he was a refugee from Russia in Manchuria during the Bolshevik revolution and was employed by a Chinese farmer. When they planted the beans and other vegetable crops they also plant-



H. F. Bowker

ed forgeries of ancient Chinese coins in the soil at the same time, as it had been determined that the soil in his field had some particularly desirable chemical quality which facilitated the aging of the coins. After the crops were harvested they dug up the coins and delivered them to their maker for entry into the channels of trade as authentic antiques. So you see there are pitfalls against which one must guard.

The Chinese field of numismatics may conveniently be divided into several sections; the **ancient** period extending down to the beginning of the Han dynasty, circa 200 BC., and including the cowries and their substitutes; the, by our present standards, **odd-shaped** knives, spades, axes, etc., and including the circular flat coins with round holes. Next come the medieval pieces, which are largely circular, flat-rimmed in shape with square holes of the familiar "cash" type. Then come the "modern" type struck coins, some of which retained the physical characteristics of the holed cash, but more commonly conform to the occidental notions of what a coin should be, an inscribed circular disc. In each of these great divisions may be found specimens which partake of the style of the earlier coinages, but they are the exception and not the rule.

Many materials have been used for Chinese coinages. The earliest appear to have been the natural cowries which were used by the Chinese of inner Asia before they conquered the areas bordering on the Pacific Ocean. These were obtained by barter from the peoples of southeast Asia. Indeed, pictographs of little men carrying long strings of cowries at either end of shoulder-borne carrying sticks have been found on early bronze vessels of the Chow dynasty. It is interesting to note that the Chinese character "**pao**" meaning valuable and which up to recent years appeared on the coins, has for its principal component part the radical for cowrie. This also is true of the character "**yuan**" meaning round, and by extension dollar, which also has the cowrie pictograph in its makeup. As a matter of fact, almost every Chinese word having to do with value or trade and analogous meanings has the cowrie radical in its character.

Because of the scarcity of natural

cowries, the ingenious Chinese first made imitation cowries in stone, shell, bone, pottery, lead, and bronze, and in the latter case even gilded the bronze cowries to enhance their value.

Having discovered the relative better wearing qualities of metal tokens, bronze became the universal material from which the general circulating medium was made. From an early period the Chinese fully understood the greater relative value of gold and silver with respect to bronze, and both of these metals were in the possession of rulers, officials, and wealthy families, and did not circulate as coins until late years.

Throughout the many centuries during which the bronze "cash" made up the principal coinage of the common man in China, the size of the individual coins varied greatly. In times of wars and economic depressions they shrunk in size and weight to a mere fraction of their former weight. With the advent of peace and a new ruler or a new dynasty they regained their former weight and worth. All of these happenings added to the number of varieties which now go to fill the cabinets of collectors, and when understood are the background of the romance of Chinese numismatics.

With the opening of relations with western nations on an extended scale after the first circumnavigation of the world, the Chinese expanded their foreign and domestic trade and in doing so began to absorb western ideas on financial matters. Millions of dollars worth of silk, tea, china, and other typical Chinese products previously practically unknown to the occident entered the trade of western nations from China. These were largely paid for in silver, the principal source of which was Mexico. Thus the "Mex" dollar became the principal circulating medium of the export trade, but did not supercede the heavy strings of bronze and brass cash in the interior among the Chinese.

The next move was for the Chinese to mint their own silver dollars and fractions thereof. In doing this they closely copied the size and fineness of the Mexican dollar. Because of the structure of the Chinese government at this period, the minting at first was done by the several provincial governments rather than

by the Imperial government. This was the cause of a multiplicity of varieties as no nation-wide standard pattern was developed until the last days of the empire and the first days of the republic.

We now come to the matter of gold in China's coinage. The only time in China's long history when gold was minted for actual circulation occurred in Yunnan province between 1915 and 1920. At that time silver was at a considerable premium with respect to gold and the authorities minted three different series of gold coins of the \$5 and \$10 denominations. Mr. Eduard Kann states that of the last of these issues some 900,000 of the \$10 and 600,000 of the \$5 values were minted. As the market price of silver dropped sharply after World War I, the gold coins were melted down, so even these are now not too plentiful. We have on display the \$5 value of the first issue, a replica of the same value of the second issue in silver, and both the \$5 and \$10 values of the last issue. The inscriptions on the second issue present a curious feature and perhaps one which is unique, in that the values of the gold coins are stated in terms of silver, for it is stated thereon "equal to five (or ten) silver dollars." The amount of gold in these coins at the time of their issue represented respectively only four and eight silver dollars; therefore, it was thought that they would remain in circulation. As the marked drop in the silver market was not anticipated, it was not long before they went out of circulation.

All other purported gold coins of China are either medallions, presentation pieces struck in gold from dies intended for use for silver coins, or essays of proposed reformed monetary systems to be based upon gold standards.

Perhaps it may be appropriate to comment on some of the features of the Chinese coins in my display here. There are a number of metal tokens which have been variously called "bridge-money," "dragon-head money," "tangle-tangle money" or "gong-money." It is difficult to believe that these pieces were ever intended to be used as money, and as a matter of fact I had always doubted it until I obtained the specimen which is displayed above the large stone

piece. It will be noted that this piece has on its face two conventional representations of holed cash. There is another similar but slightly larger specimen in the collection of the American Numismatic Society Museum in New York. These and another piece similar to mine are the only such pieces I have ever seen or heard of. The large stone piece is an actual Chinese musical instrument, one of a set of resonant gongs which were used by ancient orchestras at religious ceremonies. These always have legs of unequal length. In this they differ from the metallic tokens, which invariably have the legs of equal length. I consider it doubtful that the metallic pieces could have represented the value of one of the stone gongs, no two of which in a set were of equal size. It is believable that the small metallic hoes, spades, and knives could have represented the value, for purposes of barter, of an actual hoe, spade, or knife, but I find it difficult to believe that others of the several odd-shaped metallic pieces also were trade tokens.

Before closing, it seems appropriate to sound a word of warning against the large number of bogus silver pieces, mostly of the dollar and half-dollar sizes, which a few years ago flooded the market, and usually are represented as commemorative coins. With few exceptions, they do not resemble any known genuine Chinese coins or commemorative medallions, but are merely the product of the fertile imagination of a small group of racketeers. I am glad to be able to report that the principal one is now dead. When I was in China in 1939, they could be purchased in most Shanghai exchange shops for about one Chinese dollar each, which at that time was equivalent to 16 cents in U.S. currency. This gives one an idea of their intrinsic value as represented by the small amount of silver they contain.

A few years ago a Chinese dealer traveled throughout the U.S. offering any Chinese dollar for \$2. Needless to say, his wares were largely bogus, but many of them were disposed of to credulous dealers and collectors, and from time to time they appear in current auctions as rare coins. Some of these were even struck in gold. The best that can be said for these

(Continued on Page Ten)

Who's Who In California Numismatics

◆
EVERETT S. OSTROM
◆

By **JERRY THOMAS**

For a man who is "just pushed into jobs," Everett S. Ostrom, vice-president of the California State Numismatic Association, has landed high among the more prominent numismatists in the state.

The Kingsburg, Calif., pharmacist, who was elected veep of the CSNA April 8, served on the association's first board of directors, being elected Feb. 21, 1948. He also finds time to take active interest in the hobby as a member of the American Numismatic Society, life member No. 209 of the American Numismatic Association, and a member of the Hanford Coin Club. He is treasurer of the Orders and Medals Society of America.

When interviewed, the good-natured Swede, who likes to do clown acts, full outfit and all, warned, "For gosh sakes, don't let it sound like I'm a big shot, because I'm just a country kid. Remember when you live in a small town of 2450 population like Kingsburg and have a good family background, you're just pushed into jobs, regardless."

For a "country kid" Ostrom has more than held his own through his coin associations with residents of foreign nations. He corresponds with numerous people of many lands and occasionally they pay him visits on their trips to this country. He listed among the countries Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, China, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgian Congo, and Brazil.

"I speak only English, Swedish, and Spanish," Ostrom commented, "but have little difficulty until I entertain in my home and have to translate all to my wife."

He currently is rewriting his entire coin collection. "My coin library and knowledge have grown and I'm



making many interesting discoveries," Ostrom added.

He collects coins of the world, and military decorations and medals.

With both parents of Swedish descent, it was natural for Ostrom to specialize in Scandinavian coins. This specialization does not stop with coins and medals, though. Stamp collecting, started when he was but 12 years old, features Scandinavian specimens. Ostrom also collects registration labels and has more than 8000.

He explains his mania for collecting things in these words, "I collect various things to keep busy in my spare time as an excuse to get away from the everyday worries and cares and just relax."

Ostrom's "favorite fun" — doing a clown act — probably stems from his dad, David W. Ostrom, who was considered a humorous fellow. Ostrom describes his father, who was owner of the drug store now co-owned by Everett and his younger brother, David G., as the "Will Rogers type, a real, practical joker."

Everett recently did a dual clowning job in a local parade without his friends being aware of it. The most fun came when his friends told

him later about the clowns, not knowing that he was part of the act.

Ostrom was born July 25, 1914, in Kingsburg, the son of David W. and Hulda Satterberg Ostrom. His father died in Kingsburg shortly after completing an 8-month trip to Europe, Scandinavia, and Eastern U.S. His mother is still living in Kingsburg. Everett was graduated from Kingsburg High School in 1932. He played saxophone and clarinet in the high school band, and was active in debate, journalism, and speech. He was class treasurer, student body treasurer, and business manager of the school annual and weekly high school paper.

All has not been one big laugh for Ostrom. He contracted a tropical disease in Los Angeles while watching the 1932 Olympic Games. He spent a month in the University of California Hospital and lost one year of his studies.

He attended the University of California College of Pharmacy, San Francisco, and was graduated with honors in 1937. He is a life member of Sigma Kappa Theta, pharmacy honor society. After working for the Owl Drug Co. in San Francisco for a year, Ostrom returned to Kingsburg where he went into partnership with his father and brother.

He was married to Miss Alice Swanson March 23, 1940. The Ostroms have two children, Robert, 7, and Karen, 5. Mrs. Ostrom also was

born and raised in Kingsburg and attended the local schools. A graduate of Reedley Junior College, she worked as a private secretary in Kingsburg until her marriage.

Everett's numismatic affiliations and interests are challenged by his philatelic collections and organizations. He has been a member of the American Philatelic Society for 10 years and of the Society of Philatelic Americans for eight years. Two years ago he became a member of the Postal Stationery Society.

Although coins and stamps rank high in his hobby field, Ostrom still finds time to play golf, hunt quail, ducks and doves, and go deep-sea fishing. The love of guns has led him to join a skeet club where he does much trap shooting.

Ostrom is vice-president of the Kingsburg Kiwanis Club, is serving his ninth year as a member of the local elementary school board, and is a member of the Mission Covenant Church and the Masonic Lodge.

Considering the fact that this jovial, amiable gent hails from a "small town" and is but 37 years young, his rise in numismatic circles and local civic enterprises is indeed noteworthy.

We can't help but wonder how he would have explained all these sundry activities and accomplishments if he had been born, raised, and had lived in a city of some 500,000 population.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

459	ANDERSON, Cliff D.	P.O. Box 270, San Jose, Calif.
461	BLOIS, Stanley L.	1147 Ramona St., Palo Alto, Calif.
456	CAPITOL CITY COIN CLUB.....	P.O. Box 547, West Sacramento, Calif.
454	LODGE, Lesley G.	962 Jones St., San Francisco 9, Calif.
455	McBRIDE, Harold W.	3209 La Cresta, Bakersfield, Calif.
458	NORDIN, Jerry M.	1660 Coast Hiway, Sunset Beach, Calif.
460	SAN FILIPPO, John	60 Willow St., San Jose, Calif.
457	WAIT, Al	440 - 45th St., Sacramento, Calif.

ADDRESS CHANGES

12	MITCHELL, Ralph A.	846 Warren Way, Palo Alto, Calif.
321	MONEY, Mona N.	2484 Sitka St., San Leandro, Calif.
140	ROLUND, Richard	833 Fedora St., Apt. 403, Los Angeles, Calif.
276	WHITNEY, James F.	2433 W. Silver Lake Dr., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB.....Joslyn Hall, Wilshire Blvd., between
Seventh St. and Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica

The CSNA and Its Auctions

When Paul H. Wittlin's proposal for the auction sale at the Santa Cruz convention was accepted by the Board it was not without misgivings. The proposal was revolutionary in several important respects, and even allowing for the fact that Wittlin made his proposition as a form of advertising to become better acquainted with California collectors, there were those who said it could not be a success.

Some said that no auction could be a success on the basis of a 5% commission charge. The idea of having a control committee, chosen from the association, to exercise full control over the auction, and to have the final word in all questions and possible disputes, was new and untried. Wittlin admitted that it was an experiment, it being the first auction sale in his experience.

The Santa Cruz convention is now history and our questions have all had answers. We did have a GOOD auction. The material offered was of a high quality, and that it was well and carefully graded is evidenced by the fact that out of 2076 lots only 13 were questioned on that score, none of them seriously. All dissatisfactions were quickly and satisfactorily settled. With James Kelly as auctioneer, there could be no complaint on that score. The sale grossed just under \$20,000, and since Wittlin had proposed to assume the advertising cost for that one sale, the 5% commission, with a minimum of 25 cents, just about covered the cost of issuing the modest catalog and other incidental costs.

It was a good sale with good material. Consignors have all been paid and bidders have all received their coins. Expressions of satisfaction have been received from both, testifying to the success of the auction;

and as a result the Board has accepted Wittlin's proposal to conduct a similar sale at Santa Barbara in November, with one or two changes based on the experience gained at Santa Cruz.

The control committee, consisting of Everett S. Ostrom, Ralph A. Mitchell and Earl A. Parker, will function as before. It will have full charge of all auction activities. It will hear complaints, if any, and its decisions are final, being accepted in advance by Wittlin.

The same type of inexpensive catalog will be prepared. Several suggested changes in its make-up will be used.

There will be one major change in the commission scale. The Santa Cruz auction had 1083 lots which paid the minimum commission of 25

cents, producing a revenue of \$270.75. The 993 lots which sold for \$5 or more grossed \$16,271, which at 5% produced a revenue of \$813.05. Since it costs as much to list a coin selling for \$5 as it does for one selling for \$500, it is obvious that the 1083 minimum lots did not even come close to bearing their share of the cost. The Santa Barbara sale will have to bear the expense of the national advertising in addition to other costs, and it has been decided, therefore, to increase the minimum, leaving the basic commission at 5%, thus more nearly equalizing the cost over the whole sale. The minimum charge will be \$1 average per lot.

There were 29 consignors in the Santa Cruz auction. Just about as many had to be turned down because they came in after all available space was taken. Any collector who wishes to participate in this sale should bear that in mind and contact Wittlin's early. Write Wittlin's, P.O. Box 2213, Carmel, Calif.



Anna and Paul H. Wittlin

Report of Santa Cruz Auction

Number of lots selling for \$5 or more.....	993
Number of lots selling for less than \$5.....	1083
Total.....	2076
Price realized on those for \$5 or more.....	\$16,271.00
Price realized on those for less than \$5.....	3,309.05
Total.....	\$19,580.05
Commission on lots selling for \$5 or more @ 5%.....	\$ 813.05
Commission on lots selling for less than \$5 @ 25c.....	270.75
Total.....	\$ 1,083.80
Expense:	
Envelopes (including addressing).....	\$ 159.83
Catalog (including printing and mailing).....	927.96
Freight and postage	17.55
Auction license	1.00
Total.....	\$ 1,106.34
Net Loss	\$ 22.54
Memoranda:	
Catalogs distributed	8500
Number of consignors	29
Consignors refused a/c late, not suitable, etc.	29
Mail bidders	529
Floor bidders	70
Bidders receiving coins	302
Lots returned by successful bidders	13
(Note: All minor items adjusted by Wittlin's)	
Postcards (free) returned by recipients of catalogs	900
Informative	700
Laudatory	180
Critical	23
Price list — mailed to all who showed interest without charge.	
Those who paid for price list had money refunded.	

Place Your Hotel Reservations Now

Reservations at the Mar Monte Hotel, Santa Barbara, may be made now, directly to the hotel, accompanied by a deposit of \$5 per person.

The special CSNA rate is \$8 per day, double occupancy. In the bungalow section the rate is \$3.50 per day per person if rooms are occupied by three or more persons. Bungalow accommodations will sleep three persons per room and are so arranged that they may be had en suite. For instance, you may have a large living room containing two day beds, a connecting alcove bedroom with twin beds, two connecting master bedrooms sleeping three persons each, and three private baths.

Wittlin's Requests Coin Consignments

Persons who plan to consign coins for the Santa Barbara convention auctions on Nov. 3 and 4, should write to Wittlin's, P.O. Box 2213, Carmel, Calif., as soon as possible.

Time must be allowed for grading and cataloguing material. Catalogs must be mailed to prospective bidders early.

Consignors and successful bidders both were pleased with results of the Santa Cruz auction, judging from correspondence received.

A basic commission of 5%, with a minimum charge of \$1 average per lot, will be charged by the cataloguer.

California Club News, Views, and Whos

EAST BAY COIN CLUB, Oakland.

—Frank X. Galvin addressed the June 8 meeting of the club on the Saint Gaudens gold coins, and described a recent trip through the San Francisco mint. The meeting, held in Jenny Lind Hall, was presided over by A. W. Ritchie. Forty-one members and nine guests attended.

R. G. McArthur, CSNA secretary-treasurer, commented on activities of the state association.

Coins were exhibited by Ed Fogler, Clifford Bloom, Rudy Gjurovich, A. W. Ritchie, and Earl Parker. Fogler exhibited an attractive collection of 46 different animals and birds on coins of the 20th century. Gjurovich showed C. V. Kappen's 1/64 ducat of Nuremberg, the world's smallest gold coin.

Earl Parker conducted the auction of 36 lots.

Forty-five members and seven guests were present at the May 11 meeting. A short business session was held. Roy Hill was appointed reporter for the **Circulated Proof**. The "grab bag" was sold, netting \$13 for the library fund.

Coin displays were made by Sidney Haas, Dennis Olswang, Roy Hill, A. W. Ritchie, Rudy Gjurovich, Earl Parker, and Frank Galvin. Haas' comments on his exhibit were judged most interesting, and he pocketed the \$1 prize.

John Ohls and Edward Fogler

MORE ON

Coins of China — Bowker

(Continued from Page Four)

is that they are souvenirs or curiosities.

My advice to all collectors is to look with a jaundiced eye at everything in the line of struck gold and silver which is not listed in Mr. Tsiang's little book or *Coins of the World*, and not to be taken in by such rubbish. There are too many authentic and interesting coins in the genuine issues of China for one to be diverted by the glitter of these bogus pieces.

Ten

spoke on German commemorative coins and on the history of the German empire, respectively. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Pearl Holm. —Antoinette Connell.

* * *

GARDEN GROVE COIN CLUB.—

Thirty-two members and visitors attended the third meeting May 3. L. L. Trickey presided.

A routine business session was held, during which constitution and by-laws were discussed. Eight new members were added to the roster.

Charles Ruby spoke on coins in general and pointed out some of his beginning experiences as a collector. He commended officers and members for the fine progress shown thus far in promoting coin collecting in this locality. Ruby was impressed particularly by the number of members the club has gained in such a short time. He said he was pleased to see so many younger persons interested in numismatics. He said beginners who are not able to purchase uncirculated coins should not become discouraged, but that "run of the mill" coins are just as desirable and important to many collectors. The fun of collecting, the speaker said, is in the search.

The meeting was adjourned and an auction was held. —Richard Elliott.

* * *

LONG BEACH COIN CLUB.—

The 11th club meeting was held May 15 at 951 Locust Ave., Long Beach. The nominating committee selected names to be presented at the election of officers for the coming year, to be held June 19. Auction and refreshments followed.

Charles L. Ruby was endorsed unanimously for member of the ANA board of governors April 17 at the 10th meeting of the club. Thirty-two members and three guests were present. Auction and refreshments followed. —John C. Yribarne.

* * *

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB,

Brea.—The 156th regular meeting of the Orange County Coin Club was held at the Brea Women's Clubhouse May 23. Attendance numbered 94 members and guests.

Following a brief business session,

President Verner G. Rich turned the meeting over to Dr. C. Glen Curtis, program chairman. Dr. Curtis introduced a delegation of visitors from the Phoenix Coin Club of Arizona, on hand to give the program for the evening. The delegation was headed by the president of the Phoenix Club, Don Sherer.

Sherer pretended that the Phoenix Club members came primarily to find out what makes the Orange County Coin Club tick and that he could promise no outstanding program. With that great understatement he produced some numismatic numbers which went over big with the audience.

First he presented one of the most distinguished members of his club, V. Leon Belt, former president of the American Numismatic Association.

Belt modestly said that his interest in collecting is not so much the acquisition of perfect coin specimens or gathering of a large complete collection as it is to collect coins which have stories of great interest.

He then displayed an old wallet which was carried by a Union veteran of the Civil War. In it was a \$5 bill that he had received as pay. He carried this pocketbook upon his person when he was struck by a Confederate bullet. The bullet passed through the pocketbook and the folded \$5 bill, inflicting a wound which proved to be fatal.

Belt obtained this interesting memento from an old lady who knew the deceased soldier. He also obtained from her a letter which had been written by the soldier to his brother just prior to his death. When Belt finished the story he had everyone convinced that if coins or currency could talk they could tell many tales just as dramatic.

Next, Sherer presented his son David as the real numismatist of his family. David told the audience that he had adopted coin collecting as a hobby because of its educational and historical interest. He displayed a novel coin chest which he had built with the help of his dad to house his collection. Both David and the chest brought a big round of applause from the house.

President Sherer also introduced his daughter Ann, who said that she likes to collect foreign coins because she is interested in the customs and

the costumes of the countries from which these coins come.

Belt again took the floor and outlined plans of the Phoenix Coin Club for the ANA convention at Phoenix this year. He left no doubt that the convention program is to be one of the best ever held. Judging from the quality of this club's work in connection with National Coin Week for the past several years, when they won first prize, how could anyone doubt Belt when he said it would be tops? Following Belt's outline of convention plans, many Orange County Club members said they will not want to miss going to Phoenix next August.

After the Phoenix delegation concluded its program, a fine prize of coin earrings was awarded to one of the ladies of the delegation. Specimens of Hudson Bay and California shell wampum were given to each visitor from Phoenix. These awards were donated by S. M. Koeppel, who said it is an old custom to give gifts of wampum whenever members of one coin tribe come to visit another tribe.

After a short intermission for cookies and coffee, an auction of coins was held, with S. J. Kabealo auctioneer.

The 155th meeting was held April 25. Attendance numbered 75 members and guests.

Joe Block of Los Angeles, and Charles Booth and Robert Wylie, both of Garden Grove, were admitted as members. The secretary read a letter from the Garden Grove Coin Club thanking the Orange County Coin Club for the assistance of its members at the Garden Grove organization meeting. Dr. Glen Curtis asked members who intend to attend the ANA convention at Phoenix next August to make their reservations early at the Westward Ho Hotel.

Fred Draper, Fred Smith, and Dr. Calvert Emmons each gave a report of exhibits made during National Coin Week. Joe Steele reported on arrangements for the club's coin exhibit at the Orange County Fair in August.

Program Chairman Curtis was most embarrassed by the failure of his program speaker, Frederick C. Dockweiler, to appear at the meeting. However, in his resourceful way, he gave the club a most delightful substitute when he asked his guest,

Colonel Warren J. Clear of Monterey, to address the meeting.

Although the Colonel apologized for not being prepared to talk, he gave a most interesting account of his experiences while in the Army Intelligence Service. These experiences covered countries in Europe, the Philippines, China, and Japan. As a numismatist of note and long standing, he could not help but bring in numerous anecdotes about coin collecting in these foreign countries. So much was his talk enjoyed that he was invited to return and give the club a prepared speech.

Following the program the usual auction of coins offered by members was held, with Joe Steele serving in his familiar role as auctioneer.

—H. M. Bergen.

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PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, San Francisco. — The 423rd regular meeting convened May 23 at the Palace Hotel with 26 members and 10 guests present.



Lieut. Comdr. H. F. Bowker, editor, said that he would appreciate greatly the contribution of articles for the society's bulletin. Earl A. Parker, who writes club publicity

for the San Francisco Examiner, asked that programs be in his hands two weeks in advance of meeting nights. He said that he, too, would welcome short articles for the Sunday newspaper.

Bowker suggested that the club buy reflector lamps similar to those used by the East Bay Coin Club. Erich Werling was appointed to look into the matter.

Earl A. Parker conducted an auction of 20 lots.

Secretary Edward Fogler conducted a round-table discussion, and the following members gave interesting talks: N. Slobodchikoff, Mongolian coinage; Charles V. Kappen, Egyptian temple pieces; H. F. Bowker, coins of the province of Anhwai in China; Sidney Haas, historical and geographical background of the coinage of Albania; and Ed Fogler, the coinage of the Austrian empire and republic. Ralph A. Mitchell talked about coin collecting in general, and stressed that many 20th century coins are underpriced in the catalogs.

Exhibits: Clifford Bloom, two ducats of the Holy Roman Empire; N. Slobodchikoff, complete set of Mongolian coins; John Rausch, paper notes of Brazil; H. F. Bowker, coins of Anhwai, Chinese province; Charles V. Kappen, Egyptian temple piece, the first slot machine money; Charles Peters, U.S. 1920 double eagle, 1908 eagle, 1901 20-franc piece of Switzerland, and 1907 10 and 100 franc pieces of France; Tom Twohey, three English groats of Henry VII and Henry VIII; Roy Hill, Athens tetradrachm, 480 B.C., and the book, **Coinage of the British Empire** by Henry Noel Humphreys, 1854.

Forty-two members and 11 guests attended the April 25 meeting. A proposal to change the club name failed of adoption. E. A. Parker, auctioneer, disposed of 24 coin lots. Two new members were admitted to the roster.

Edward Fogler talked on salient features of his Santa Cruz convention prize-winning display of 170 silver coins of the German empire.

Exhibits: Clifford Bloom, 5 and 10 mark gold coins of the German States; Frank Galvin, complete set of Norse medals; Rudy Gjurovich, two 1/16 ducats of Nuremberg, 1700; Jack Hecht, complete date set of U.S. large cents; George F. Hodges, U.S. 1848 \$5 gold piece; Charles V. Kappen, "Godless" florin of England; Kurt Loret, book, **The Romance of Archaeology**, by M. Davis; John Ohls, 25 5-mark commemorative pieces of Germany in proof; N. Slobodchikoff, paper currency of Korea, Manchuria, and Mongolia; William Smith, complete sets of Indian and Lincoln cents, \$5 and \$10 gold pieces of Canada, and the U.S. \$20 double eagle of 1907 in high relief.

—Edward Fogler.

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REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB, Santa Rosa. — Thursday, May 24, was Healdsburg night at the Redwood Empire Coin Club. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Bob Anderson presided.

Two new members, Dr. Kenneth Dunlavy of Healdsburg and Fred Wagner of the Santa Rosa Credit Bureau, were added to the roster.

L. Killingsworth suggested that a table for the exchange and sale of coins be established.

After adjournment at 10:30 p.m., some time was spent in viewing ex-

hibits displayed during National Coin Week. Elmer Sandborn showed a fine gold collection which includes a 1907 high relief double eagle.

Light refreshments were served.

—Guy L. Chapman.

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB.—Fifteen members and four guests attended the 35th club meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce office, San Bernardino, May 17.

After a discussion of National Coin Week displays, guests were introduced. These included two members of the Garden Grove Coin Club, Charles Booth, member of the board of governors, and Dick Elliott, secretary.

Bland Haydon spoke on U.S. coin type sets. He gave a very good coverage of this interesting series, sparing the usual discussion of minute varieties and sticking to the real types. This talk started many to thinking that perhaps they are missing something by collecting page after page of the same coin.

Fred Coops displayed his collection of 39 different English medals by Elgin. These medallions were dedicated to the king during the reign of George IV. The reverse of each medal bears a different reproduction of a Greek mythological statue.

Bryan Burke conducted a short quiz program. Door prize, gab session, and auction ended the meeting.

The 34th meeting was held April 19 with 14 members present. The main business of the meeting was National Coin Week. It was determined that displays would be shown as follows:

City of San Bernardino — Lloyd Blue, U.S. paper currency; Roy Oldham, Indian cents; Fred Coops, U.S. type set; and Bryan Burke, foreign paper and coins.

Redlands — Howard Smith, U.S. currency; Bland Haydon, U.S. uncirculated sets.

Upland and Pomona — Fred Draper, U.S. gold type set and other U.S. coins.

Ontario — Fred H. Smith, early U.S. large cents; Dr. C. L. Emmons, Mexican 50-peso gold, commemorative medallions.

An appropriate seal was adopted by our club to be used on stationery and club papers. (Editor's note: How

about an electro of it, size of a nickel, for use in **Calcoin News**?)

Dr. C. L. Emmons displayed his commemorative medallions. Bryan Burke talked on the history of the U.S. mint. — Bryan Burke.

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SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—Fifty members and guests attended the 14th anniversary dinner at Dartlee Hall, 3680 Sixth Ave., June 4. Leonel C. Panosh was master of ceremonies.

The various members drew cards bearing subjects for short talks which they were asked to make. Talks were recorded.

I. B. Knickerbocker was exhibit winner with a complete U.S. proof set, 1858-1915. Mrs. James Crouthamel took second prize with a showing of large bills, and Jim Crouthamel was third place winner with a beautiful type set of U.S. coins.

The menu consisted of spaghetti, ravioli, green salad, cheese toast, coffee, and ice cream.

—Eugene D. Johnston.

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SAN JOSE COIN CLUB. — The June 4 club meeting was about equally divided between business session, talk and exhibits, and an auction of 36 lots.

The scheduled speaker, Fred Skillman, failed to appear at the meeting. On a moment's notice, Ralph Mitchell, Palo Alto, substituted to the delight of everyone with a talk on some of his experiences in obtaining, or rather, not obtaining, greatly wanted coins in recent auctions. Mitchell, with his ready wit and good humor, never fails to liven up any coin meeting with his many experiences and vast knowledge of coin collecting.

Exhibits were described by Frank X. Galvin, German medal commemorating the sinking of the Lusitania; Vincent Guarnera, coins of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Russia; Roy Hill, coins of Ceylon, Malaya, and Russia.

Among out-of-town members and guests were Dr. Nathan Bowers, Atherton; Erich Werling, Oakland; Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Wittlin, Carmel; Earl A. Parker, San Francisco; Robert G. McArthur, Oakland; Ralph Mitchell, Palo Alto; Stanley Blois, Palo Alto; Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Patterson, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Smith, San Fran-

cisco; Frank X. Galvin, Oakland; and Roy Hill, San Francisco.

George A. Matson, San Jose lawyer, became a member of the club.

President Charles V. Kappen named the following committees: Membership — Sanford A. Parks, Frank Lo Guidice, and George W. Jennot; county fair — George F. Hodges, George F. Kohl, and Ira D. Soper; program — Cliff D. Anderson, John San Filippo, Paul Wittlin, Ralph Mitchell, and C. V. Kappen; auditing — George F. Hodges, Vincent Guarnera, and William A. Benson; auction — Earl A. Parker, Vincent Guarnera, and Syl C. Tully Jr.; publicity — E. A. Parker, George F. Kohl, and C. V. Kappen.

The May 7 meeting was devoted primarily to election of officers and reading of annual reports. The treasurer reported \$75.01 in the treasury. The membership committee reported a gain of 10 new members and one resignation.

Officers elected were Charles V. Kappen, president; Cliff D. Anderson, vice-president; George F. Kohl, secretary; Vincent Guarnera, treasurer; George F. Hodges, librarian-historian; and Charles E. Knickerbocker and Joseph Pepitone, board of governors.

The club nominated and will sponsor the following slate at the ANA election: Joseph Moss, president; Lewis M. Reagan, general secretary; Harold Klein, treasurer; Christian Petersen, Leonel Panosh, Charles Ruby, R. S. Yecoman, and O. H. Dodson, board of governors.

Exhibits: E. A. Parker, \$50 slug; rare pattern Hawaiian dollar of 1891, and a rare Korean set of the year 1901 consisting of one-half won, 5 chon, and one chon; C. V. Kappen, ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Jewish, Egyptian, and Chinese coins; Fred Skillman, a board of U.S. commemorative halves and a gold type set.

Roy Hill talked on "The Geography of Ancient Coins," using maps for illustrations. Earl Parker conducted an auction of 46 lots.

The average attendance for the year has been about 30 persons.

—George F. Hodges.

Five thousand persons are engaged in washing gold by hand in the streams of the province of El Oro, Ecuador.

Fourteen

How U.S. Destroys Worn-out Currency

When soiled money is sent to the Treasury it is either laundered or destroyed. A special machine is used for laundering it. Soap suds are the cleansing agents employed. After drying, the bills are ironed and put back into circulation, clean and crisp.

Torn, worn or mutilated bills which are unfit for circulation are destroyed. The bills are first cut in half by a huge knife and then placed in a macerator for complete mutilation. The macerator is a large, round receptacle made of steel and equipped with a set of revolving knives. The machine has only two openings, each being secured by a set of three locks. Keys to these locks are held by the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Comptroller of the Currency.

When money is to be destroyed these officials, or their representatives, in company with a person designated to represent the banks and the public, assemble. Each of the three officials unlocks a lock, the lid of the macerator is removed and the currency is placed inside. The lid is replaced and each official locks his lock. The machinery is put in motion and the knives do their work. Later the same officials unlock the valve which releases the liquid pulp. Bookbinders board is made from this material.

Petersen Heads PNNA

Christian M. Petersen, Chehalis, Wash., recently was elected first president of the newly-formed Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association, according to W. E. Daniel of the Seattle Coin Club.

Chris is one of the early members of the California State Numismatic Association and has attended most of the CSNA conventions with his family.

The PNNA replaces the old Pacific Northwest Convention which met annually at Centralia, and was sponsored alternately by the Seattle and Portland clubs. There are now three clubs operating in the area.

CSNA members receive *Calcoin News* without additional cost beyond their annual dues of \$2.

Santa Barbara, Convention City

Santa Barbara has many times been referred to as "Sun Kissed, Ocean Washed, Mountain Girded, Island Guarded". Nestling within a natural saucer of the Santa Ynez Mountains and caressed by the blue Pacific, Santa Barbara has been abundantly blessed by nature with all the best things of life. Proud of being the only location in the world where one can drive from the ocean's edge to an altitude of 4000 feet in a short half-hour journey, Santa Barbara is known as the "American Riviera" throughout the entire world.

Climate, "way of life", topography, cultural opportunities, educational facilities, history and heritage, all combine to produce a locale coveted by everyone for living, relaxing, and enjoyment. The heritage and history of Santa Barbara is entwined in a romantic past beginning with its discovery by Cabrillo just 50 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Since that time the Spanish influence has been dominant in the area. Old Mission Santa Barbara, the 10th constructed in the chain of California Missions, is "Queen of all the Missions" and has held continuous services since its founding. The large Spanish land-grant ranchos and gracious haciendas established the "unlocked door" hospitality of the old West; and the great cattle herds of that time are still commemorated in the blooded beef grazing over the verdant hills of Santa Barbara county. Fine horses always have been a tradition, and the ways and customs of the past are still greatly revered in this beautiful city by the sea.

In keeping with its past history, Santa Barbara as a tourist, recreational, and convention city is renowned throughout the world. Men of vision, after an earthquake in 1925, created a pattern of architectural harmony embodying the influence of the Spanish past into the living present. Santa Barbara has become a community of handcraft and specialized industries of the "smokeless" variety, and has absorbed these into the community without destroying its heritage or architectural pattern. This beautiful architecture lends itself to the pre-

sentation of many community activities against a unique background.

Most famous of all the California Fiestas, and the originator, is the Santa Barbara Old Spanish Days Fiesta. This is held annually on the nearest Thursday, Friday and Saturday to the "Full of the Moon" in August. For this short three-day period, the community relives, recaptures and portrays the spirit, graciousness and inherent tradition of the Spanish past. Parades and pageants recreate portrayals of incidents from this romantic, legendary history. The Old Spanish Days is famous for the largest collection of horseflesh, silver-mounted tack, equipment and carriages that may be seen in the world at any one time or place. A most interesting and beloved highlight of the Fiesta is the Children's Fiesta Parade, in which the creative imagination of the youngsters is given full sway. The Fiesta delights everyone with its pageantry, dancing, singing, strolling musicians, flowers and equestrian contests, all in the traditional dress. Enjoy this community party, for "La Fiesta" literally means "the party".

Of equal renown is the unique annual Semana Nautica celebration over the Fourth of July. This completely recreational week presents sporting events from archery and checkers to sailing races and powerboat races; and every type of spectator and participant sporting event is held for public viewing. It is fitting that Santa Barbara, known as a harbor and port of refuge for centuries, should further this nautical background with a large scale nautical sport events program in the harbor. This start in the harbor has spread throughout the area to the foothills, with all types of land activities being recognized.

The cultural and educational interests of Santa Barbara have a year-round program of public events. Dramatic shows, garden tours, musicales, and handcraft exhibits are continually on the recreational calendar. Flower shows, National Horse Show, and International Cymbidium Orchid Show all are outstanding events. Many special programs are

arranged to coincide with interested conventions in session there.

Santa Barbara and its 50,000 inhabitants offer a city of cosmopolitan nature without the tension and strife of large population centers. The tradition of Santa Barbara has lent itself in admirable fashion with its temperate climate, geographical location, topography and leisurely way of life to offer pleasant relaxation to the tourist or convention visitor. The topographical scene viewed from the Riviera of tiled roofs gleaming in the sun and reflected on the white walls, to the vista of rippling palm trees adjoining the water's edge, creates a recurring picture for the jaded traveler. Attend the California State Numismatic convention, Nov. 2, 3, and 4 in Santa Barbara.

Siamese Shenanigans

Dr. M'Gilvary said that up to 1874 salt was used as currency for purchases in the Zimme market; and that up to 1865, **bee-a**, or cowries, were in use in Siam: the value of these was so small that from 800 to 1500 went to a **fuang** (7½ cents). The cowries were imported from Bombay.

The late King of Siam (P'ra Chom Klao, Mongkut, 1851-1868) determined to stop the use of cowries as currency, and floated a token money of lead. As he could place what values he liked upon the lead coins, he resolved that 64 large stamped pieces, or 128 small stamped pieces, should go for a **tical** of silver, although the lead in them cost less than half that amount. At the same time he issued a new flat silver **tical** (60 cents), a trifle less heavy than the bullet-shaped **ticals** that had been issued in the previous reign.

The monetary transactions in lead would bring 100 per cent profit to his treasury, and likewise—which he does not seem to have counted on—to the treasury of any one who thought fit to forge the coins. For some time the government made a splendid profit, but soon domestic and foreign forgers filled the market with their bogus issues. A great panic ensued among the people; the lead pieces were generally refused, and the government had to stop coining them.

Before the collapse of the lead coinage, the king determined further

to replenish his treasury by another device. He issued copper coins, two of which were to be valued at a **fuang** (7½ cents), and to weigh together a trifle over half an ounce. To insure their being taken by the people, he declared cowries to be no longer current. As he did not call the cowries in, and exchange them for the lead or copper coins, they became worthless to their possessors.

This was a sad stroke of fortune for the poor people, but worse was to come. When the present King of Siam came to the throne, finding that forgery of the debased coinage was naturally prevalent, he reduced the current value of the old lead coins by declaring 40 of them equal to a **fuang**, or 320 to a **tical** — considerably less than actual value of the lead contained in them. The copper pieces he reduced in value to 8 for a **fuang**, or to a fourth of the value that they had been issued at. The people thus lost the gross value of their cowries, and were robbed of half the value of their lead coins, and three-fourths the value of their copper ones.

—PCNS Numismatic Bulletin.

Did You Know That—

The mint of the United States turned out 69,867 coins in the year 1815, of which only 635 were gold and the rest — 69,232 — were silver pieces?

Of the gold deposits received at the Mint of the United States in 1836 amounting to \$4,084,000, only \$467,000 was derived from our United States? California hadn't been heard of at the time as a golden paradise.

The only currency of the Garo Tribe of Assam, India, is a cylindrical bale of raw cotton 8 feet high and weighing 120 pounds? Thus reports "Believe It or Not" Ripley.

The Island of Aegina was the earliest state of Greece to adopt the use of coined money?

Coins and stamps have an association in many ways? One of these is the some 150 varieties of encased U.S. postage stamps put out by business houses in 1862 of 1- to 90-cent values. They served as small change during critical times and were succeeded by fractional currency of 3-, 5-, 10-, 15-, 25- and 50-cent denominations. —Circulated Proof.